



# Recycling Lines

Electronic Newsletter

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The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

**Welcome to Recycling Lines.** If you have suggestions on future topics for the newsletter, please send the information to Steve Coe at [steve.coe@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:steve.coe@deq.virginia.gov). We welcome news submittals from the public and local governments.

## Roanoke Expands Plastics Recycling at the Curb

Roanokers won't have to squint so hard at their plastics before deciding whether to toss them into the recycling bin. Starting this fall, they may end up with a \$50 Kroger gift card for even bothering to recycle at all. In a push to increase Roanoke's recycling rate -- which currently sits at 38 percent -- the city has expanded its curbside collection to include No. 1 through No. 7 plastics, according to Skip Decker, manager of Roanoke's solid waste department. Previously the city had collected only No. 1 and No. 2 plastics.

The Roanoke City Council also approved an agreement Monday with Charlotte, N.C.-based Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Consolidated to participate in a six-month program called "Recycle and Win!" that will begin in early October. The company, which has production and distribution facilities in Roanoke and Roanoke County, will distribute stickers that city residents can affix to their recycling bins. Each week, the company will deploy a "prize patrol" that will roam city streets looking for recycling bins bearing the stickers. If the contents of the bin are appropriate to what's being collected by the city that week -- bottles, cans and plastics one week, paper and cardboard the next -- that resident will win a \$50 gift card to Kroger.

Previous "Recycle and Win!" programs in Charlotte and Raleigh, N.C., increased recycling by 30 percent to 35 percent, Decker said. The program won't cost Roanoke anything, except possibly the expense of buying more green recycling bins, he said. City officials hope the program will not only result in a higher recycling rate, but in a reduction of trash disposal tipping fees and contamination in recycle bins.

The city pays extra to collect recyclable materials, but Decker said it aims to reach a level so that it will pay for itself. "We're not there yet, but if we can get over a certain point, the lower tipping fees for recycling will pay for the cost of collecting it," Decker said.

*Story from Roanoke.com, August 2, 2011.*

## Did You Know?

- Garbage trucks will be required to cut fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by about 10% before the end of the decade, according to new federal rules. Vocational vehicles, such as garbage trucks, delivery trucks and buses, will be required to make the fuel and pollution improvements by the 2018 model year, according to the U.S. EPA.
- According to Virginia Automotive Recyclers Association (VARA), the automobile is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most recycled product in the U.S. after lead batteries, with an estimated 14 million vehicle recycled each year. VARA reports that recycled cars provide nearly 40% of all recycled steel in the U.S.

## Howard County, MD, to Recycle Food Scraps

Residents in Howard County, Md., will soon be able to discard organic waste, in addition to their recyclables, becoming one of the first East Coast areas to start a large-scale composting program, the Baltimore Sun reported.

Almost 5,000 residents in Elkridge and Ellicott City are being asked to participate in the food scraps recycling pilot program, which will begin in September and turn more than 20% of landfill waste into compost, the newspaper reported. Residents will be provided with a 35-gallon container that will be collected once a week. The food scraps will be taken to Recycled Green in Woodbine, Md., the newspaper reported, where they will be composted and sold as a soil nutrient. Officials hope to extend food-scrap recycling countywide by next year, the newspaper said.

Less than 3% of the 34 million tons of food waste generated each year is recycled nationwide, according to the U.S. EPA. San Francisco and Seattle, along with several other municipalities on the West Coast, have similar collections in place, but the practice has not caught on in the eastern U.S., the newspaper said.

*Contact Waste & Recycling News reporter Shawn Wright at [swright@crain.com](mailto:swright@crain.com) or 313-446-0346.*

# Boosting Recycling in Virginia

## a markets development workshop



Recycling is changing in Virginia.  
You can help shape the future.

These one day workshops will highlight recycling market developments and new opportunities around glass, plastic, and paper recycling in Virginia.

Participants will gain program improving information and have a voice in shaping new opportunities ahead.

Join us. Registration just \$25. Seats limited.

September 27, 2011: Wytheville, VA  
September 28, 2011: Fredricksburg, VA  
September 29, 2011: Hampton, VA



Presented by:



Information & registration:  
[www.serdc.org/events](http://www.serdc.org/events)

## DMV Revises Vehicle Disposition Forms

In order to reduce confusion about which DMV forms are required when transferring vehicles to demolishers or scrap metal processors, Vehicle Services is replacing the commonly used form VSA44. Local governments will now be required to use form VSA122 to track and to certify the disposition of inoperable vehicles within the locality for which a reimbursement will be requested. Vehicle dispositions from other sources should be reported using form VSA40, Vehicle Removal Certificate.

Vehicle dispositions to be reported using VSA40 include abandoned motor vehicles processed in DMV's online Abandoned Vehicle Process and all inoperable or operable vehicles transferred by any person for demolition or scrap metal processing when no reimbursement is requested. Additionally, form VSA44A, the Demolisher and Mercury Switch Removal Declaration Form, will become form VSA40A, Demolisher and Mercury Switch Removal Certification.

## Mercury Switch Program Update

The Virginia Automotive Recyclers Association (VARA) reported that as of August 1, 2011, Virginia Salvage businesses had submitted 67,675 mercury switches removed from the vehicles they recycled. Nearly 4 million mercury switches have been collected nationwide.

Virginia's mercury switch removal requirement was extended through July 1, 2015. For salvage businesses seeking additional collection buckets, VARA recommends contacting The Environmental Quality Company (EQ) at 800-592-5489. The buckets include return postage paid, and do not need to be full to be submitted.

For more about the national mercury switch recovery program, visit [www.egonline.com](http://www.egonline.com).

## Recycling Web Links of Interest

- 1) [www.serdc.org](http://www.serdc.org) (Southeast Recycling Development Council)
- 2) <http://valuestockguide.com/recycling-saves-money/> (Recycling Saves Money website/links)
- 3) [www.varecyclers.com](http://www.varecyclers.com) (Virginia Automotive Recyclers Association)
- 4) <http://www.dmv.virginia.gov/webdoc/citizen/vehicles/abandoned.asp> (DMV's abandoned vehicle program)

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## U.S. Senate Resolution in Support of Recycling

Senator Thomas R. Carper (D) of Delaware and Senator Olympia Snowe (R) of Maine, co-Chairs of the Senate Recycling Caucus and others, recently introduced U.S. Senate Resolution 251, which expresses support for "the improvement of collection, processing and consumption of recyclable materials throughout the United States" and "policies in the United States that establish the equitable treatment of recycled materials."

The purpose of the Senate Recycling Caucus is to educate Senate members and staff on the need for and benefits of recycling to the US economy and the environment and about energy savings generated through recycling, as well as to support public policies aimed at increasing recycling across the country.

The Recycling Roundtable, an advocacy group comprised of the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries Inc, the Steel Recycling Institute, the Aluminum Association, the Solid Waste Association of North America, the National Solid Wastes Management Association, the American Forest & Paper Association, and the Paper Recycling Coalition, has announced its strong endorsement of US Senate Resolution 251, expressing support for the improvement of collection, processing and consumption of recyclable materials throughout the United States.

Visit

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c112:S.RES.251> for the full text of the Resolution.

## Calendar of Events

**September 14-16:** Conference, Southwest Virginia Solid Waste Management Association, Roanoke Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center.  
(<http://www.svswma.org>)

**September 16-17:** 2011 Virginia Environmental Assembly, Wintergreen Resort ([www.vcnva.org](http://www.vcnva.org))

**September 27-29:** Recycling Workshops, Southeast Recycling Development Council (SERDC), 3 sites in Virginia. ([www.serdc.org](http://www.serdc.org)) (see flier on page 2)

**October 19-20:** Conference, Virginia Council for Litter Prevention & Recycling. Lynchburg Wingate Hotel.  
([http://www.cvwma.com/education\\_and\\_outreach/litter\\_prevention/litter\\_summit.wbp](http://www.cvwma.com/education_and_outreach/litter_prevention/litter_summit.wbp))

**November 1:** Virginia Recycling Association's Annual Membership Meeting, Charlottesville Omni.  
([www.vrarecycles.org](http://www.vrarecycles.org))

**November 15:** America/Virginia Recycles Day.